

# THE RICHMOND DISPATCH--SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1884.

## THE GEORGIA GIRL AMAZED.

### A MOB SURROUNDING HER.

Dr. Forrest's Attempt to Turn Miss Hurst's Power Observed by the Girl's Father and Husband.

(New York Times.)

Never since she began to exhibit her peculiar powers to a skeptical public has the Georgia phenomenon faced such an angry, howling lot of people as did the spectators at the meeting in Washington last night. The house was crowded with men, women, and children. Prominent people who had seen every performance for the week were present again, and there was a multitude of new faces. The opening scenes of what has taken place every evening during the week, only the demonstrations were nothing like as powerful. Every umbrella brought to the stage was sent back again in perfect condition. Bitterly they have been broken in pieces. Personally the phenomena looked better than ever. She first gave her bow to a New York audience. Her dress was more becoming to a girl of her age.

Several people in the audience smelled woolen when Dr. W. E. Forrest joined in the first exodus toward the stage. He was the man who had proposed her to him.

Two hours later, and there were rumors that he proposed to make matters particularly lively. He did so. The first young man who grasped the umbrella retorted with a bleeding wound on his forehead. "She's possessed of the devil!" he exclaimed, "and he's propelling her in a basin of blood." Harry Hill, with his hair sticking out like brushes and a dazzling pin in his shirt, was the next victim. He made a hard fight, but finally gave up. Dr. Mills, the player-king at the Madison-Square Theatre, walked forward as part of the mob, white and retired greatly perplexed. Dr. Forrest did not rise from his seat during the first part of the performance, which is divided into three sections.

"No man can hold a cue or an umbrella still at my feet," said he, "and I'm not going to be held."

When it came to the chair mystery the Doctor began to move around. He dodged here and there, watching the hands and feet of the phenomenon and the men she was using. She sat down on the floor like lightning. Harry Hill came up for another trial, shut his teeth, and muttered:

"Now, go ahead."

Miss Hurst began to chuckle, the chair began to whirl around the stage, and the spectators began to roar and shout. Mr. Hill crouched down, and the Doctor arrived in a very ridiculous fashion. After while he got up and tried to press the chair to the floor. He struggled like a cart-horse, but the large, white hands of the phenomenon held him.

"There isn't nothing you can't do with it," she said, "down."

After a fit of pushing the chair slipped from the girl's grasp and dropped to the stage with a bang. Mr. Hill was satisfied, and went to his seat. That was a boorish man," remarked a lady who succeeded to Mrs. Hurst.

"I don't care," she said, "he's plucky."

After a half dozen others had been disposed of, Dr. Forrest, with a red rose in the button-hole of his Prince Albert coat, marched to the footlight and grasped the chair. The phenomenon stood by and watched very much annoyed. The Doctor sat down, but he didn't stay long. The phenomenon boisted him from his seat and chuckled louder than ever. The Doctor's friends and sympathizers shouted at him from the galleries and from the orchestra. He was perfectly composed and evidently very pleased.

"Now," said Mr. Atkinson, "try and push the chair to the floor while Miss Hurst has her hands on it."

The Doctor did not hold the chair in the usual way close to his chest, but thrust it far out of its length. The moment the phenomenon touched it it flew up and hit her in the chin.

"Ah," exclaimed the Doctor, "I beg pardon. Now," he continued, tightening his grip for another trial.

Mr. Atkinson interferred. "Here," he said, "you can't allow me to hold the chair like that."

"I simply want to apply one or two very fast tests," pleaded the Doctor.

"We can't allow it, sir. Please stand aside. We shall be glad to have you make yourself at home at the rooms; but you must not interfere with this performance."

The scene which followed was almost indescribable. It was Bedlam let loose. Men in the top gallery took off their hats and vests and howled at the female power below.

The women seemed for fair play to the girl on the stage, surrounded as she was by a small mob of excited men, who were wrangling and gesturing like brokers on Change. Men in the orchestra chairs shouted for peace, and some paid any attention to them. A dozen taken at once, Miss Hurst sat down by her mother just outside the scene, and looked on in perfect amazement.

"Well," she said, "ain't this scar'ous?"

Her father rushed on the stage, hampered by the crowd, and finally got people to listen to him. "I ain't goin' to endanger my daughter's life," he said sternly. "The way that man wants to hold that chair! it's liable to fly up and hit his wife in the face." The crowd howled derisively at Mr. Atkinson, who had to hold him to the door to prevent him from the stage. He held his ground and waited for the storm to subside. It only grew worse. The phenomenon fled from the scene, and the janitor turned down the lights. In a moment's time a half-lighted oil lamp in the audience waded his umbrellas and shouted:

"Isn't Captain Williams here to-night? This is disgraceful."

The captain was not there. One police man on the stage and two in the auditorium were as helpless as the rest of us. They did nothing but sit. They were present at the meeting, and plenty of other people talked a great deal louder than they did. Mr. Hurst got things pretty quiet again and continued:

"When we gave our second performance down in Richmond, we can see on the stage and heard the crowd cheering, and then the Doctor does it. He did it and made a big cut in my girl's lip—knocked—him-down!"

As he spoke the last few words, Mr. Hurst, who is a tall, muscular man, with a fist as big as his thumb, stepped directly behind the doctor and shot down the other men on the stage, and glared at the Doctor. People began to leave the theatre. Mr. Atkinson lost his head in the excitement, and proved his utter incapacity to deal with a New York audience. The Doctor, however, had come to the rescue before the footlights with a big yellow fan and said: "If Dr. Forrest desires to hire a theatre and give an exhibition, there are plenty of empty ones in the city. I am directed by Mr. Moss to say that he can't have this one. I have leased it for the present, and if this noise is not stopped now I am going to close the doors at once."

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The policeman was called upon to put out the Doctor, but he concluded that he had better not do it. An excited audience man who was in sympathy with the opposition, used to go to the footlights and conducted himself in the most extraordinary fashion. In the hush-hush the Doctor and another man grasped a stick and began to wrestle over the stage. The performers whom the people had paid to see prepared to leave home. The boy Atkinson was perturbed to the bone, and the stage was pretty well cleared.

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